

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In light of the above amendments and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 17, 21, and 30 are pending in this application. Claims 3-4, 7-10, 12, 18-20, 22-25, 27, 31-38, and 40 are canceled.

Claims 1, 12, 17, 27, 30, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,018,720) in view of Tagawa et al. (U.S. Patent 6,834,348). Claims 2-3, 18 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimoto in view of Tagawa and Akiyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,745). Claims 4-10, 19-25 and 32-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimoto, Tagawa, and Akiyama and further in view of Inoue et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,539,468).

The limitations of canceled dependent claim 5 have been amended into the independent claims 1, 17, and 30.

Specifically, the independent claims now recite: "adding, when said second recording medium has been loaded in response to the prompt for the loading of said second recording medium, a usable remaining amount of money in said second recording medium to said usable remaining amount of money in the previously loaded recording medium." (Claim 1; Claims 17 and 30 contain similar limitations) As disclosed in the Specification on page 82, if the amount of usable money attributable to the first recording medium is not sufficient to purchase the content, then a second recording medium can be inserted and the useable amount attributable to that second recording medium can be combined with the first amount to make

the purchase.

The Examiner relies upon Inoue to meet the limitation of "the addition based on the information about the remaining recordable capacity of the previously loaded recording medium and the information about the remaining recordable capacity of the second recording medium..." (see at least col. 1, lines 38-57; col. 2, lines 16-34)." (Office Action page 12) Hence, Inoue discloses adding the "remaining recordable capacity" rather than adding the "usable remaining amount of money" as recited in the present claims. The present invention likewise discusses the remaining recordable capacity which is a measure of how much space remains on the recording medium. This concept is different from the usable remaining amount of money which is a measure of whether the user can afford to purchase additional content to be recorded on the recording medium. Inoue (like Fujimoto, Tagawa, and Akiyama) fails to disclose adding the "usable remaining amount of money" from two different recording medium as required by the present invention. Accordingly, for at least this reason, the combination of Fujimoto, Tagawa, Akiyama, and Inoue fails to meet all of the limitations of the present invention, and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's

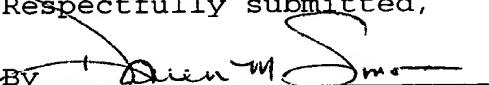
attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

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Respectfully submitted,

By



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